

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-7 are rejected. Claims 10-12 are allowed. Claims 8 and 9 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 2-7 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 10 and secure their allowability.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has considered the Applicant's traversal of the Restriction Requirement that has held claims 8 and 9 withdrawn from consideration. The Requirement has been made final. Applicants have cancelled these claims without prejudice or disclaimer in filing them in a divisional application, and in order to place the present application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art in view of JP 8-227132. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants have cancelled claim 1, which served as the parent for claims 2-7 and have made these remaining claims dependent on allowable claim 10. Thus, all of these claims now should be patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

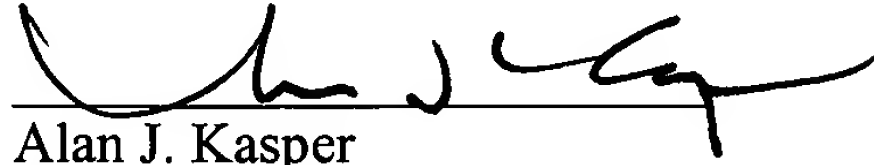
Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that claims 10-12 are allowable. Applicants have relied upon this indication of allowability to amend the remaining claims to depend from claim 10 and place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
09/955,169

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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